

Research Summary

Mobility of BC Transfer Students - Fall 2006 to Calendar Year 2007

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These research highlights summarize the movement of transfer students from BC colleges, university colleges¹, and institutes (sending Institutions) into BC universities from the Fall of 2006 into calendar year 2007. Predictions for 2008 are also provided along with trends from Fall 2003 to the present. In this study, transfer students are classified according to their likelihood of transfer to a BC university (see **Figure A** and definitions).

- In the Fall of 2007, there were 60,586 Potential Transfer Students who might seek admission to university in the future.
- Among this group, there were 23,533 Eligible Transfer Students with sufficient transfer courses and grades to seek university admission, should they choose to do so.
- Among those students last registered at sending institutions in the Fall of 2006, a total of 3,965 transferred to BC public universities in calendar year 2007 with transfer as the basis of admission.
- An additional 799 students, who last registered at sending institutions prior to Fall 2006, also transferred to BC universities in 2007, thus increasing the total Successful Transfer Students to 4,764 in calendar year 2007. This represents an 8.6% decrease over the 5,211 transfer students who entered BC universities in calendar year 2006.

DEFINITIONS

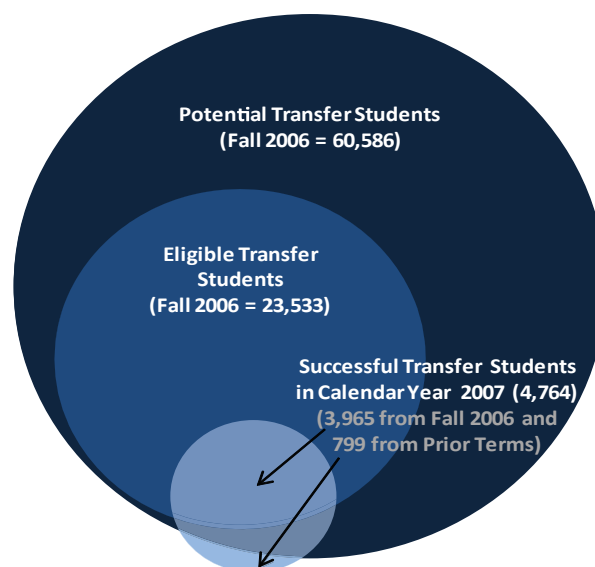
A **Potential Transfer Student (PTR)** is any student who is enrolled in or has completed at least one course listed in the BC Transfer Guide. The student's intentions or grades are immaterial for inclusion in the Potential Transfer Student group.

An **Eligible Transfer Student (ETR)** is any student who is enrolled in or has completed at least 24 credits in courses listed in the BC Transfer Guide and has a GPA of at least 2.00. Not all eligible transfer students will seek university admission in the following year, nor would they necessarily meet specific entrance requirements, but they are the most likely to enter university in the subsequent year.

A **Successful Transfer Student (STR)** is any student who was admitted to university on the basis of having completed a minimum number of credits in courses in a college, university college, or institute that are transferable to BC universities.

This study also uses a **Transfer Ratio** to estimate the subsequent year's (i.e., calendar year 2008) volume of Successful Transfers, assuming all other conditions remain unchanged. **The Transfer Ratio is the number of Successful Transfer Students divided by the number of Eligible Transfer Students from the previous Fall.**

Figure A: Volume of BC Transfer Students



¹ Institutional designations in this study are those that were in place for the period of this study, which was prior to Malaspina, Kwantlen, UCFV, and Capilano being designated as universities.

SUCCESSFUL TRANSFER STUDENTS

- Most students (83%) transfer to university without delay after last registering in a college, university college, or institute. The more credits students earn at their sending institution, the more likely they are to transfer to university without delay.
- More than two-thirds of Successful Transfer Students stay at their sending institution beyond the minimum number of credits (24) needed for transfer.
- Successful Transfer Students entering BC universities earned an average of 42.2 credits at their sending institution before transferring to university, ranging from a high of 47.0 among those entering Simon Fraser University to a low of 29.2 among those entering Thompson Rivers University.
- Compared to students attending smaller institutions in BC, students at university colleges, Camosun College, and Lower Mainland sending institutions tend to accumulate more credits before transferring to university, possibly due to differences in program and course offerings.
- Roughly one-quarter of Successful Transfer Students enter BC universities with at least a B average (in the GPA range of 3.00 or higher).

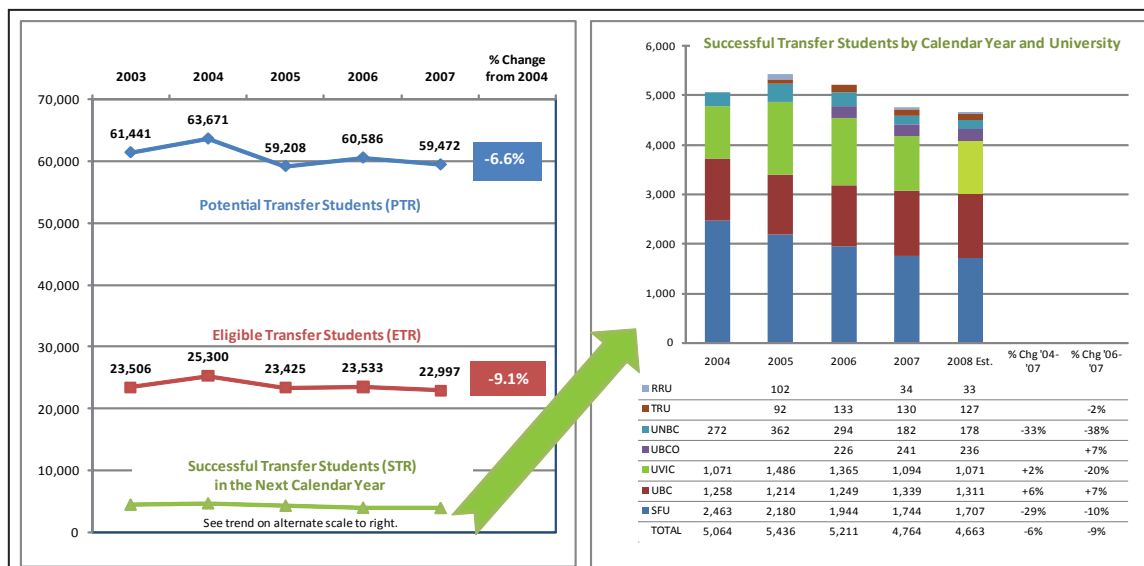
TRENDS

The trend in the volume of transfer students in BC over the last several years is shown in **Figure B**. The peak in the volume of Potential and Eligible Transfer Students occurred in Fall 2004, and numbers declined significantly in Fall 2005 but have leveled off since then. The number of Eligible Transfer Students was 22,997 in Fall 2007. This is 2.3% lower than the previous year (23,533 in Fall 2006) and 9.1% lower than the peak volume in Fall 2004 (25,300). Along with the declining pool of Eligible Transfer Students, the rate at which students transferred to university has also declined.

The number of successful Transfer Students, currently at 4,764 in calendar year 2007, is 8.6% below the previous year and 14.2% below the peak volume in calendar year 2005 (5,436).

While the volume of Successful Transfer Students is largely a function of the pool of Eligible Transfer Students, it is also affected by numerous other factors, such as students' desire to enter university; other opportunities available for completing a bachelor's degree at a college, university college, or institute; changes in institutional designation; and enrolment quotas and GPA thresholds in university Faculties and programs. Nevertheless, assuming transfer rates and other enrollment conditions remain unchanged next year, it is estimated that we will see a further 2.1% decline in Successful Transfer Students to BC universities in calendar year 2008.

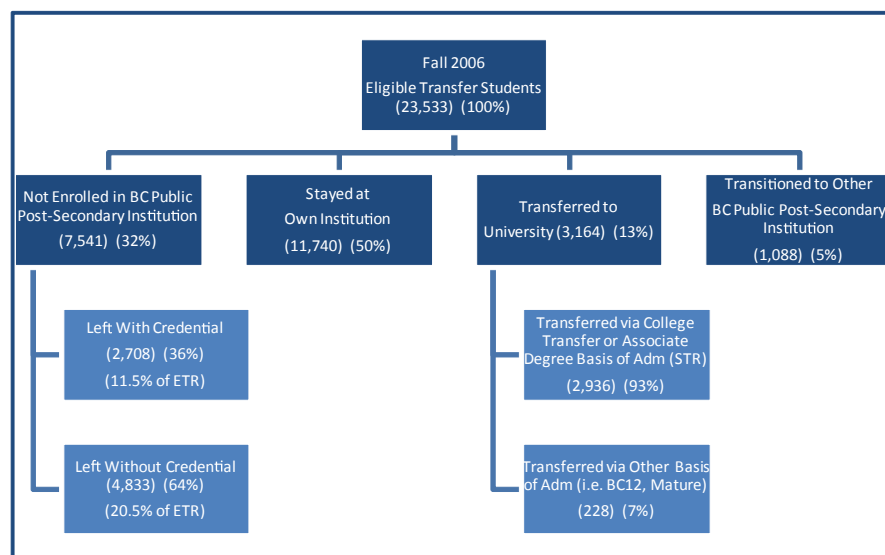
Figure B: Transfer Student Trends



DESTINATIONS OF ELIGIBLE TRANSFER STUDENTS

In Fall 2006, there were 23,533 Eligible Transfer Students enrolled in BC colleges, university colleges, and institutes. These students were deemed likely to seek university admission in the following year because they accumulated sufficient minimum qualifications for transfer. As shown in **Figure C**, 13% of these students entered a BC university in calendar year 2007 and 5% transferred to another BC public post-secondary institution in Fall 2007. The largest group (50%) stayed at their own institution, perhaps choosing to enter university at a later date. Roughly one-third did not re-enrol in a BC public post-secondary institution, of which 36% had completed a credential and 64% had left without a credential. Many of these non-returning students could enrol in a BC university at a later date or enrol outside of the BC public post-secondary education system (private or non-BC).

Figure C: Destinations of Fall 2006 Eligible Transfer Students in Calendar Year 2007



LOOKING AHEAD

The volume of Successful Transfer Students to university will likely continue to decline in BC over the forthcoming years, unless the declining college enrollments in Arts and Science programs and the pool of Potential and Eligible Transfer Students improve. The recent conversion of existing university colleges and colleges in BC (Malaspina, Kwantlen, UCFV, and Capilano) to new universities may further impact the rate at which students transfer to BC universities this Fall and in the future. The Student Transitions Project, in collaboration with the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer, will continue to monitor and report on these trends each year.

More Information: A more detailed summary of this research is provided in an eight-page newsletter which can be found at www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student_transitions/mobility-subcommittee.htm.